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**'One Year Later, Slow Progress for Department of Energy Reform,'
says Special Nuclear Security Oversight Panel**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – One year after the President signed into law the bill that reformed the Department of Energy and created the National Nuclear Security Administration, only limited progress has been made in establishing the semi-autonomous entity according to a report issued by a special nuclear security oversight panel with jurisdiction over these reforms.

"Unfortunately, for some months after the law was signed, the executive branch failed to fully implement this reform plan, which was Congress' attempt to correct long-standing management and organizational problems," said U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX), who authored the reforms last year and now serves as Chairman of the Special Oversight Panel on Department of Energy Reorganization.

"It was only after another security problem occurred within the nuclear weapons complex that we started to see some action. I give General Gordon a lot of credit for this. He's made a good start and it's important that Congress and officials within the Energy Department give him their full support."

"The management and bureaucracy problems at the DOE have made the agency slow to implement the NNSA. It is precisely these problems that we hope the formation of the NNSA will address," said U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Ranking Democrat on the Panel. "I feel a lot better now that General Gordon is on the job. While it is going to take some time to fix such long-standing organizational deficiencies, I am confident that if anyone can do this, it's General Gordon."

According to the report the NNSA should:

- ✓ *Implement a comprehensive security action plan that will promote an integrated security management program.*
- ✓ *Complete a management plan for streamlining NNSA lines of authority by realigning its headquarters and field assets.*
- ✓ *Submit a plan to improve personnel management.*
- ✓ *Submit the first of a series of detailed budget proposals and multi-year plans that fully comply with Title 32.*

The report is the second formal review of DOE's implementation of the reform law. A copy of this report can be found on the House Armed Services Committee Web site at www.house.gov/hasc or on Thornberry's Web site at www.house.gov/thornberry/.

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